Employment Tax e-file System
Technical Fact Sheet
November 5, 2003

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

Definition

Software Developers develop software for the purpose of formatting returns according to the IRS's electronic return specifications. Software may be designed for use by Electronic Return Originators, Reporting Agents, or Taxpayers.

Participating in the Employment Tax E-file Program

To participate in the Employment Tax e-file Program, a Form 8633, Application to Participate in the IRS e-file Program, must be submitted to the Andover Campus. Form 8633 may be obtained at www.irs.gov or by calling 1-866-255-0654. Mail the completed form to:

Internal Revenue Service
Andover Campus
Attn: EFU Acceptance
Testing Stop 983
P.O. Box 4099
Woburn, MA 01888-4099

If you have questions, or require assistance completing the Form 8633 –

Phone: 1-866-255-0654 (toll-free)

Software Development

In January 2003, we introduced the new Employment Tax e-file System for Forms 940 and 941. This system only accepts transmission in the Extensible Markup Language (XML). You will find the XML Schema's for 940's, 941's and other pertinent information for developing software for the new Employment Tax e-file System on our web site at
http://www.irs.gov/taxpros/providers/article/0,,id=97753,00.html.

Software Specifications

Software specifications can be found on the Developers website. Schema version 2.1 is current through calendar year 2003 and Version 2.2 will be used starting in January 2004 for production return filing and for assurance testing

starting in November 2003. The User Guide and Publications link will provide other useful procedures, especially the Publication 3823, on how to get started. To find software specifications you can go to our website www.irs.gov/taxpros/providers/article/0,,id=97753,00.html.

2.5 Testing New Software Packages

To test a software package you should first review our Assurance Testing Process, which can be found under the User Guide and Publications link on the above stated website. You must have completed the Form 9041 and received a test electronic transmitter identification number (ETIN). Once you're ready to test, you can call the new IRS e-Help Desk number (866-255-0654) to speak with an e-file Tax Examiner in Cincinnati to state that the software package you have is ready to be tested.